KVRX
The Call Letter

The University of Texas at Austin **March 1998**

Editor Says . . .

It never ceases to amaze me how much great music there is here in Austin, not to mention the surrounding Texas area. Most local bands are on labels, but I encourage everyone to see the live show experiences. A couple of weekends ago, I saw Paul Newman at Emo's.

On stage, their songs take a new breath of life adding an impressive dimension of intensity during performance. It was great to see that the band was so supportive of their opening bands, (both from Texas) Knife in the Water and Blueprint. Local, independent music thrives on a support system like the members of Paul Newman displayed.

College radio works much the same way. March 23rd - April 6th, KVRX will be coordinating our annual Pledge Drive. Supporting KVRX enables us to go forth with the unique musical format and explore our creative projects for the Austin community.

This month is Austin's privilege and honor to be host to the music festival South by Southwest (SXSW). KVRX will have an extended version of Local Live called 3 x 5. National and local artists have agreed to grace our studios for lovely audio-phonic bliss. . .

April is KVRX's 10-year- anniversary. It's your contributions that have kept us here this long. Buying the Local Live vol.. II compact disk now available at record stores city wide, is also a way of pledging your support for the station.

editor

The KVRX Call Letter is published monthly by the staff of KVRX 91.7 FM, the student radio station of the University of Texas at Austin. Views expressed herein are the views of and do not necessarily reflect those of KVRX, Texas Student Publications or UT-Austin.

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Stalking the Scenesters . . .

The Kiss Offs Rock The Stage

Good music finds its way inside the head. You find yourself humming or singing the song when you least expect it. It becomes a fun visitor nestled in your between your ears and consciousness.

The Kiss Offs pass that rule with flying colors. As far as song-writing, they are genius. Their catchy, tongue-in-cheek lyrics about true love, love's betrayal and the cheapness in love and affection are reminiscent of childhood sing-along sessions. Only The Kiss Offs tinge them with the post-adolescent cynicism, irony and wit, reflecting an exaggerated commentary on the extreme insecurities of today's youth culture.

Call it art-punk, or kiddie-punk with a no-wave sound, The Kiss Offs divide their resources of musical creativity, writing talent and performance. Their slightly raw sound gets caught in the ears wrapped with the heart-felt lyrics, "Kiss, kiss, kiss and a slap on the face. . .,". While Phillip Niemeyer(guitars, vocals) sings, the crowd bobs their heads singing with him. He sometimes may find a familiar face in his crowd to enact that part of the song and it brings drama to the show.

They easily stand alone in Austin band fashionableness in their uniform, private school wardrobes. It's something quite like magic when Niemeyer's lanky frame wiggles on stage in concert with Dwayne Barness' (drums) glittery black mop trembling when he steps on the kick-pedal, Gavin Scott's (bass) pretty, colored lips pout mischievously, Travis Higdon (guitar) with his all-American good looks provide the garage-pop guitar sound as Katey Jones, with her gem-stoned keyboard, embarks the quintet on a sugar-rush of nervous, cute energy. Look forward to the shows anticipating pyrotechnics to explode on stage.

Their Valentine's show at Blondie's brilliantly reveled in irony because it rubbed salt in the ultimate wound — being alone on Valentine's Day. Their Valentine's show with the Vidi Vitties pulled out all the stops. The Kiss Offs had love in the bowlfuls with those chalky, heart confections with redeeming messages of self-worth like, "Be Mine" and "hot stuff". The flip-side of cute, they also provided free beverages for anyone who need to drown their sorrows.

Their arrangement focuses on the rawness of punk, but their adorable tunes are flavored with something beyond pop, placing them in their own genre. The Kiss Offs started in August of 96 with Barness on drums, and Scott and Niemeyer on guitar. When Scott briefly moved to Tennessee, Barness and Niemeyer recruited Higdon and Jones to play guitar and keyboard. Fortunately, Scott returned to Austin in the summer of 97 and came back as the Kiss Offs' bassist.

The Kiss Offs are veterans to their distinct sound coming from a seasoned history. Higdon and Scott are in the 1,4,5's, with members, Dean Hsieh and Anna Viniegra of the defunct Teen Titans. Niemeyer is also an ex-Teen Titan and also plays with a new exciting band to keep watch for, The Night Vandals with members from Fun Machine and the Prima Donnas.

One almost needs a family tree to trace the fall and rise of the incarnations of all their bands and side-projects. Says Niemeyer, "I guess that seems pretty incestuous, but I think most bands are like that. You play music with your friends, just like you play play tennis or go swimming with your friends."

Blanca Madriz -

Austin Scope

And The Band Played On. . .

Popular celebrities sometimes use their status to help an organization gain support. Patrick Stuart, Capt. John Piccard on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, is a spokesperson for Amnesty International. But in the tradition of Austin's grassroots activism, it was three local bands that raised money and basked in the limelight for Amnesty International at a benefit held Feb. 19 at 21st Street Co-op.

Almost Francis, the Mollies and Woozyhelmet performed from 8pm to 11pm to raise money for Amnesty International's effort to protect human rights in Nigeria.

The benefit coincided with the National Day of Student Action which allowed student chapters of Amnesty International across the United States to coordinate their efforts to focus on bringing freedom and justice to Nigeria. Donations were accepted at the door.

Amnesty International is an independent, worldwide movement that works for the release of prisoners of war. Their goal is to seek fair and prompt trial for political prisoners and an end to tortures and executions of these detained political figures.

Organizers of the event brought petitions protesting the Clinton administration's proposed use of "positive engagement," or dialogue with the Nigerian government on issues of mutual interest while maintaining a protest against the country's lack of democracy and human rights record.

The petitions for the release of jailed student leaders were addressed to Gen. Sani Abacha, chairman of the Armed ForcesRevolutionary Council in Nigeria,and US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

Amnesty International supports making key reforms in the Nigerian government like the release of all political prisoners before continuing "business as usual" with the American government, according to organizers.

Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, has been under the rule of Gen. Sani Abacha's dictatorship since November 1993. When Abacha seized power, the Clinton administration suspended all but emergency aid, restricted visas, suspended military assistance and instructed US banking officials to veto any loans for Nigeria.

Abacha's government has entered the final six months of an alleged transition to civilian rule.

However, Amnesty International fears that such action would allow Abacha to remain in power and want the US government to oppose human rights violations in Nigeria, according to one of the agency's press releases.

A petition supporting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also available at the benefit. 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the declaration, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948.

The local Austin chapter is tentatively seeking to organize a bigger benefit in late spring or early summer. The resources which will ensure the success of raising money for Amnesty International will depend on volunteer support to help organize an other music benefit, April, Sat. 18.

Volunteers should contact Jay Crossley for more information at: (512) 320-0690. To get intouch with Amnesty International, call (202) 775-5161 or visit their website at www.amnesty-usa.org.

Ana Cantu-

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kvrx salutes. . .

Programming Manager : Courtney Davis

Let's cut right down to the chase. . .how big is it really? Courtney Davis is not bashful about the size of her record collection or the greatness of the occasional showtune in daily life.

Courtney Davis works hard at KVRX. She goes over play lists with the other program manager, Phillip Shannon. She goes through hours of calling DJs and is ready to rise in the need of an emergency. Besides her dedication to her management position at KVRX, she is also Monday morning's DJ for Showtoonz.

"My [record] collection is about 150 and 30-40 CDs. Plus a dozen random tapes. One of the things that I love about showtunes is the passion and emotion in them. The point of the musical is that you feel so passionate about something that you just have to break out into song to tell the rest of the story. You cannot talk anymore. I love that."

Maybe I should have asked her to sing me a tune to get the full effect of her emotional affair with KVRX and the passionate life she leads outside the station. Davis has been involved with KVRX since the spring of 1993.

"I have given KVRX a lot of love," Courtney said. "I mean *a lot*."

In addition to the work she puts into KVRX, Courtney is a candidate for her masters in the University's Psychology Department and is a Teaching Assistant to Professor Joe Horn who teaches the Individual Differences class.

Originally, she had planned to teach at the University level, but the KVRX in her blood is starting to take a toll on her future plans and she is considering such feilds as free-lance writing or possibly being a talk show host.

"I think [KVRX] has already had an affect on me in that when I graduated with my undergraduate degree and took a year off, I really missed it. I think it makes me aware that I need a creative outlet in my life. It is actually part of the reason that I am considering alternative career plans."

The amount that KVRX has affected Courtney is obvious in the dedication that she puts into the station. KVRX would like to give you, your show and all you have contributed a large round of applause and a standing ovation.

Kelly Colchin -

91.7 KVRX Spring 98 Schedule

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5am	Josef	May	Jamie	Philip & Eva	Carl	Amber	Jacqui & Maria
7am	Stacey	Showtoonz w/Courtney	The World Beat w/Blanca	Jonny Waffle	Barton Creek Breakdown w/ Smithers & Alexander	Swinging At Sunrise w/Ian	Dave D.
9am	Anna	Boaz & Josh	Patrick	Vanessa	Paul	Jennie	Erik
11am	Nathan & John	Nancy	Steve H.	Stacey & Chelsey	Steve T.	Joan	Radiation Rock w/ Jamey
1pm	James	Nathan & Daniel	Matt R.	The New Atomic Radio Show w/Adam			John D.
3pm	Brian W.	Smithers' Special Time	Joan	Beckett	Jason	Tina	Laura
5pm	Jesse	Cable Sports	Andy	Dave D.		Pete Z.	Chris & Chad
7pm	Local Live Setup	Under Pressure / Julie	Shrink Rap / CJ Buchanen	Sports / 411	Radio Theatre / Marissa	Talk Show / Carole	Gregg
9pm	Local Live	Amy K.	Richard	News / Post-Mod / Dave S.	Brad	The Texas Show w/Angie	Tha B-Side w/Nick Nack
11pm	Michael	Happy Hours w/ Monrovia	Classical w/Marcus	Boogie Chillun' w/ The Iceman	House of Phat Beats w/ Les & Kari	Pete P.	Strictly House w/Chris
1am	Bevo Skanks w/ Rob & Miguel / Spaceland w/ Kirk	Justine Kennedy	Hicksville for Delgati w/John	Phillip S.	Urban Concepts w/ Mike Swing	Scott & James	Arena w/ Madwax, Hawk & English Dave
3am	Chaos vs. Cosmos w/Matt	Sergio	Dave B.	Don't Forget the Math w/ Courtney C.	Adam H.	Stephanie	Kelly

3x5 KVRX Calendar: Live local and *touring bands. . .

	Monday-16	Tuesday-17	Wed.-18	Thursday-19	Friday-20
8 p.m	The Vidi Vitties	*Citizens Utilities	*Firewater	eight frozen modules	*Vaz
12 a.m	Bunny Stockhausen	Dakota	*Handsome Family	KVRX hip-hop blow out	*To Rococo Rot
3 a.m.	Erik the Butcher	Cordial	*Calexico	*Glenn Styler	*Brian Jonestown

Local Live's annual 3 x 5 coincides with Austin's South by Southwest Festival. The bands listed on the calendar schedule will broadcast live at those times, so be sure to keep tuned in to 91.7 FM, KVRX!

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David Shaenfield presents. . .

Jazz Top Ten hits at KVRX

** indicates a Texas artist*

1.	Air	Moon Safari
2.	*Merchants of Venus	Who Knew?
3.	V/A	Great Jewish Music: SergeGainsbourg
4.	Moondog	Sax Pax For A Sax
5.	Victor Lewis Trios	3 Way Conversations
6.	Joe Lovano & Gonzalo Rubalcaba	Flying Color
7.	The Ganelin Trio	Ancora Da Capo
8.	John Lindberg Ensemble	Bounce
9.	Charlie Haden	The Montreal Tapes
10.	Tim Hagans & Marcus Printup	Hubsongs

The Loud Rock Top Ten Hits at KVRX

1	*...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead	Self-Titled
2.	Cap 'n Jazz	Analphabetapolothology
3.	June of 44	Four Great Points
4.	Unwound	Challenge for a Civilized World
5.	Tribe 8	Role Models for America
6.	*Paul Newman	Frames per Second
7.	*Fuckemos	Celebration
8.	*Vas Deferens Org.	Sweat Your cheeses, But Not in My
9.	Unsane	Occupational Hazard
10.	GodheadSilo	Share the Fantasy

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